



PROGRAMS OF CHOICE AND SPECIALTY ACADEMIES

Background

A program of choice is defined as a program that provides a substantial, specialized set of experiences for students in a curricular area.

A speciality academy is a program of choice and is defined in accordance with the School Act as an educational program that emphasizes a particular sport, activity or subject area and meets the prescribed criteria set out in the regulations

Procedure:

1. The superintendent will establish a process for program development and communicate it to all schools. Proposals for new programs will be presented to the board for consideration. The following new program criteria must be considered at each step in the process:
 - 1.1 The educational benefit of the program;
 - 1.2 The impact on existing programs and on enrollment at individual schools or across The district;
 - 1.3 The financial resources required to ensure successful implementation;
 - 1.4 The evidence of need or demand for this program;
 - 1.5 The degree to which the program reflects the goals of the board and the Ministry of Education;
 - 1.6 The availability of classroom space or other facilities and equipment required for the Programs;
 - 1.7 The availability of qualified staff to ensure the successful implementation of the program;
2. The process for new program approval is as follows:
 - 2.1 Those individuals recommending the introduction of a new program will discuss this program with the superintendent or designate who will advise them of the process for making application.
 - 2.2 The superintendent or designate will receive and review new program proposals.

- 2.3 The superintendent or designate will consider the merit of the proposals, request additional information and/or clarification, consult with the school's parent advisory council and subsequent, make a recommendation regarding the proposal to the Board of Education.
- 2.4 The Board of Education will make a decision regarding the implementation of the proposed new program.
3. Following initial approval, programs of choice will be offered provided sufficient numbers of registrants make such offerings economically and educationally sound.
4. Students and parents shall be given the opportunity of gaining sufficient program information to make informed choices.
5. The superintendent or designate shall recommend to the board a budget allocation as part of the budget approval process.
6. Each specialty academy program must adhere to the following criteria:
 - Specialty academies must confirm to the specialty academy criteria regulations; School Act Section 82.1 and Regulations;
 - Fees may be charged for an approved specialty academy as per the School Act, Section 82.4.
 - Fees payable to a special academy are subject to our Operational Procedure 502 (Student Fees) and including the financial hardship provisions.
 - Specialty academies are open to all students in the Campbell River School District.

Reference: Sections 2,3,4,6,7,22,65,74.1, 75,75.1, 82, 82.1, 82.4, 85 and 175(2)(s) School Act
Specialty Academy Criteria Regulation

Cross Reference: Operational Procedure 210 – Board Authority Authorized (BAA) Courses
Operational Procedure 502 – School Fees